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EUGENE KUNTZ AS COLLEAGUE AND FRIEND

MAURICE H. MERRILL*

This story begins in 1952, when Eugene Kuntz joined the faculty. I had no part in his recruitment, but our common interests threw us together, and very soon Gene and Rose, and Mrs. Merrill and I became fast friends. This has continued although the quartette was broken up by Mrs. Merrill's death in 1971.

Perhaps the first item that should be mentioned is Eugene Kuntz's special courtesy to me in his writings. While I was the senior in age, and my first book in the field was older than his, the Kuntz area was much broader than mine, and so he might have been pardoned for not mentioning me at all. However, when he gets into my area, he always cites my writing in the field. He also honors me by consulting me with respect to problems that come up, either in his writing or his practice. I can only hope that I am equally courteous to him.

Perhaps the next quality I should mention is demonstrated kindness. Years ago, when Mrs. Merrill and I were arriving at a party in the Kuntz home, Mrs. Merrill—through sheer forgetfulness—overlooked the last stairstep, and fell. She really did not believe she was seriously injured but found that, when she tried to rise, she could not do so. Our family doctor was summoned, and he ordered her taken to the local hospital in an ambulance. Eugene Kuntz was one of those assisting in getting her to the ambulance. At the hospital, the injury was diagnosed as a broken hip, requiring very careful matching on the part of the surgeon who set the break.

There was no reason for the Kuntzes to feel any responsibility in the matter, because, as I have indicated, the accident was entirely the result of Mrs. Merrill's carelessness. However, Eugene Kuntz insisted that his insurance policy should cover her expenses and insisted that she make out a claim, which, as I now remember, was honored.

This concludes the list of qualities which come within the scope of my title. The result is a relatively short article, but I believe it covers the field. Necessarily, it is highly personal, but I hope that the subject of it will accept it as a tribute to him for the many ways in which, as colleague and friend, he has made my life brighter over the years.

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